



News **LEAD** er

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM
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Testing Area Maps

Risk areas have recently been re-evaluated, as will be each April. New maps can be found on the DHSS CLPPP website at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/ChildhoodLead/>. Certain areas, St. Louis County, Kansas City, and Jackson County, were broken down by zip code to provide more accurate data. As we continue to identify areas where children may be at greater risk, areas will be updated.



Highlights of 2003 Calendar Year Testing Data

A few highlights of the Jan. to Dec. 2003 testing data include:

- Over 70,900 children tested for lead during 2003, a 5% increase in testing since 2002.
- Seventy-three percent of Missouri counties increased testing numbers between 2002 and 2003.
- Thirty-seven percent of Missouri counties increased testing numbers by 25% or more.
- Universal Testing areas of Missouri tested 20% of children less than six years of age in 2003, a 10% increase in testing since 2002.
- There were 3,087 children found with a blood lead level of 10 µg/dL or greater, a decrease of 6% since 2002.
- Missouri's prevalence of lead poisoning decreased from 5% in 2002 to 4% in 2003.

Annual Report

The DHSS CLPPP Annual Report Fiscal Year 2003 may be found on their website: www.dhss.mo.gov/ChildhoodLead/. The annual report provides valuable information including:

- An overview of the program
- An overview of the history of lead and lead poisoning in Missouri
- The Missouri statewide screening plan and reporting requirements
- An overview of case management and environmental services
- Program collaborations

New Spanish Brochures

Two popular brochures have recently been translated into Spanish. These may be ordered from our warehouse with a literature request form. The brochures include:



What Your Child's Blood Lead Level Means
(Spanish) Warehouse # 644

Preventing Lead Poisoning:
Food Safety and Good Nutrition
(Spanish) Warehouse #654



New FDA Guidelines: Lead in Imported Candy

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) intends to take actions to further reduce the potential exposure of children to lead from imported candy products. In 1995, the FDA advised manufacturers, importers, and distributors of imported candy that the agency would consider taking regulatory action against candy with lead levels that exceeded 0.5 parts per million (ppm). The 0.5 ppm guideline was, at the time, equivalent to the Food Chemicals Codex (FCC) specification for lead in sucrose, the main ingredient in candy.

Since 1995, the FCC specification for lead in sucrose has been reduced from 0.5 ppm to 0.1 ppm. The FDA has learned that certain ingredients often used in candy products imported into the U.S. may be an avoidable source of lead exposure. These ingredients include chili powder and tamarind, which are used in candies marketed to the U.S. Hispanic population. In addition, they are concerned that there may be certain manufacturing processes or conditions that contribute to elevated lead levels in candy, such as the drying of raw ingredients in areas with high levels of airborne lead, storing ingredients in improperly glazed ceramic vessels that may leach high levels of lead into the product, and grinding ingredients under conditions that may result in lead contamination.

The FDA intends to publish a guidance document that will reduce the guidance level for considering enforcement action against candy products containing lead. Keep your eyes open for these to come out in publication.



For more information on Lead in imported candy check out the Orange County Register website at:

<http://www.ocregister.com/investigations/2004/lead/index.shtml>.

This site provides a six-part series on investigating lead in Mexican candy. The report follows the candy trail from the fields in Mexico to homes in Southern California.



National Lead Poisoning Prevention
Week 2004

is October 24-30th, 2004.
Mark your calendars!!



Successful Public Outreach: *Developing an Action Plan*

The Pyramid Model for action planning is very useful to determine the “what, how, and when” while developing a lead poisoning prevention outreach activity. If the pyramid is applied during the development of a program, it can ensure integration of everyday activities with overall goals, and can focus thinking toward desired outcomes. The pyramid has four levels: mission, goals, objectives, and tasks/activities. It is recommended to start at the top of the pyramid and work down.

The mission of the program is at the very top. This is generally a broad health-based statement of why the program should be implemented, such as, “To reduce the number of children less than six years of age who have an elevated blood lead level.”

The goals of the program are broad statements of what is to be accomplished within a specific time frame. An example could be, “To increase the number of children less than six years of age by X% who receive a blood lead test before January 2005.”

The objectives are narrower and more direct-action statements coming out of the goals, such as, “To inform physicians of the importance of lead testing.” This is the level of the pyramid that involves seeking behavioral change.

The tasks and activities are “how” the objectives will be accomplished. These are day-to-day actions such as trainings, mailings, presentations, phone calls, etc. If the pyramid model is used thoroughly, every activity will be directly related up the pyramid to the mission.



Mr. Lead Spot Puppet Show Kit

Looking for a fun, interactive tool in preventing lead poisoning prevention? Look no further. The Mr. Lead Spot Puppet Show is an excellent tool for health professionals, community groups, educators, and outreach workers to use in teaching young children about preventing lead poisoning. The puppet show kit, developed for children ages two to six years, incorporates puppetry, storytelling, and song to teach children simple lead poisoning prevention measures. Colorful storyboards and hand puppets are used to demonstrate potential lead hazards and prevention techniques in a visually stimulating and engaging way. The puppet show kit is available for only \$50.00, reduced from \$198.00, which includes shipping costs. If you are interested contact DHSS, CLPPP at 573-526-4911.



**Reduced
Price!**

The puppet show kit includes:

- Set of three multi-colored storyboards
- Four hand puppets plus puppet patterns
- One large Mr. Lead Spot stick puppet
- Eighteen small Mr. Lead Spots
- Sample consent forms
- Script
- Training video

This & That

Staff Updates

We are happy to welcome Lora Cable to the Childhood Lead Program. Lora will be able to help you with your monthly testing numbers as well as general program questions.

You can reach any of us at 573-526-4911 or by email.

Susan Thomas ThomaS@dhss.mo.gov General program information

Maggie Buckland BucklM@dhss.mo.gov Nursing/clinical

Kim Crafton CraftK@dhss.mo.gov Education/Leadosaurus

Patty Osman OsmanP@dhss.mo.gov STELLAR database

Brandon Rekus RekusB@dhss.mo.gov Environmental issues

Lora Cable CableL@dhss.mo.gov General program information

Lead Poisoning Vocab To Know

1. Pica: compulsive eating of nonnutritive substances such as dirt or flaking paint.
2. Primary Prevention: preventing a problem before it occurs. Primary prevention of lead poisoning would eliminate lead sources, thus preventing exposure.
3. Chelation Therapy: the use of chelating agents (chemical compounds that bind to metals) to remove toxic metals such as lead from the body.

Website to check out!

National Clearinghouse for Lead-Safe Resources, www.lead safeclearinghouse.org/.

The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to serve as the central source where practitioners, advocates, and contractors can find assistance and discounted materials for dealing with lead-based paint hazard abatement. The National Clearinghouse for Lead-Safe Resources is designed to serve as a one-stop shop for those looking to make the process of abating lead hazards easier, faster, and less costly.



The Next Issue

Tell us what you are doing. If you would like your health department or organization to be featured in the next issue of NewsLEADER, please send your articles to:

Kim Crafton, DHSS, 930 Wildwood Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Email Craftk@dhss.mo.gov, phone 573-526-4911, or fax 573-526-6946.

Related Web Site Links



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

www.aeclp.org

U.S. EPA Office of Children's Health

www.epa.gov/children

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

www.niehs.nih.gov

Children's Health Environmental Coalition

www.chechnet.org

National Safety Council

www.nsc.org

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/T>

